



Foreword

The Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) emerged out of a small meeting of some 73 individuals in Long Beach, MS in 2000 to become a truly national coordinated network—the National COSEE Network (NCN) currently composed of 14 major Centers distributed around the coastal US and united through a National COSEE Council and supported by the National COSEE Office. The COSEE Network enhances Ocean Literacy by engaging the ocean sciences research community with the formal and informal education communities through a wide range of programs delivered in person and/or over the web at the local, regional, and national levels.

The COSEE 2011 decadal review documents summarize the first nine years of COSEE’s engagement and work with scientists and educators “to spark and nurture collaborations among research scientists and educators to advance ocean discovery and make known the vital role of the ocean in our lives.”

The review documents are provided in electronic form through the NSF Ocean Sciences website. The documents consist of a number of chapters detailing – the National COSEE Network’s legacy, capacity, and evolution; Portraits of the Centers; Return on Investments; Governance; Role of Evaluation; and an Appendix which provides a list of all the NSF’s core COSEE Center awards over time as well as a compilation of other related awards in support of COSEE activities.

The report was written by the COSEE Decadal Review working group (DRWG), COSEE Evaluation working group (EWG), National COSEE Office (NCO), and current and former COSEE-PIs from July 2010 through May 2011. The individual COSEE Centers developed the COSEE Center Portraits, Highlights, and a set of seven documents that present the work of the individual Centers with regard to: partnerships, publications, presentations, broader impacts assistance, cross-Center activities, and grants other than the main NSF Center awards. Documents for the individual COSEE Centers are ordered by the cohort in which they were funded beginning with the first 7 Centers in 2002 and ending with the last 5 Centers funded or refunded in 2010.

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A large number of people have participated in some way in the preparation of this material. While no list is complete the following individuals contributed substantively of their time and energy to the development of the documents.

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